

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are currently pending in the application of which claims 1, 2, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 47 are independent. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview and Traversal of Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

In a telephonic interview on September 15, 2006 between Applicant's representative Charles J. Gross and Examiner Hamilton, Mr. Gross pointed out to the Examiner that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment ("Notice") is in error since the reasons put forth by the Examiner in the Notice is inconsistent with the bulletin published by the United States Patent Office (USPTO) in the Official Gazette Notices (OG) dated July 5, 2005. A copy of the operative section of the July 5, 2005 OG with the appropriate section circled is attached herewith for the Examiner's convenience. In the OG of July 5, 2005, the USPTO states that various alternative status identifiers (for claim status) are acceptable, including "previously amended." In view of this information, the Examiner agreed that the Notice is in error. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner promptly withdraw the Notice of Non-compliant Amendment and proceed with examination of the application including the Reply filed on June 14, 2006.

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Other Matters

Applicant notes that this Application has been pending for six years and has received multiple non-final Office Actions and has been unduly delayed by the Office, including this current erroneous and improper Notice. Applicant respectfully submits that the best art has already been applied against this application, and successfully traversed. This application should now be promptly allowed.

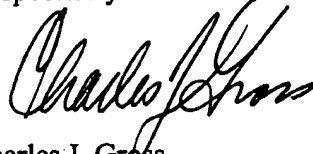
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes a forthright and bonafide attempt to respond to the current Notice has been made, and submits that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that the art of record, either singly or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the claimed invention. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles J. Gross
Registration No. 52,972

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McGuireWoods, LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102
Telephone: (434) 980-2229
Facsimile: (703) 712-5194

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